



## PURPOSE

The ACT Department of Education and Training is committed to respecting human rights and protecting the safety and welfare of all persons in education and training settings.

This Code of Conduct outlines the responsibilities of community members, Department staff and students to promote appropriate and positive conduct and to prevent or minimise non-compliant and aggressive behaviours.

All Department staff, students, parents, carers and visitors have a right to be treated with courtesy and dignity and to participate in education environments that are safe, secure, supportive and free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence.

The ACT Department of Education and Training will not tolerate purposeful violence on their premises or towards their staff or students. Under Territory law it is an offence to behave in a disorderly, violent or offensive way on Department premises or fail to leave the premises if directed to do so by the principal, a person authorised by the principal or the site manager.

The Code of Conduct is underpinned by the ACT Department of Education and Training values and principles outlined in its Strategic Plan. These are:

Inclusivity – Transparency – Equity and Diversity – Respect and Tolerance – Excellence – Collaboration – Responsiveness – Innovation

**The Code of Conduct is also guided by relevant ACT legislation:**

- *Education ACT 2004*
- *Children and Young People Act 1999*
- *Human Rights Act 2004*

**The Code links directly with Department policies and guidelines that enact this legislation:**

- Providing Safe Schools P-12
- Countering Bullying, Harassment and Violence in ACT Public Schools.
- Countering Sexual Harassment in ACT Public Schools



- Countering Racism in ACT Public Schools
- Acceptable Use of Information Technology (IT)
- Complaints Resolution Policy
- Visitors in Schools Framework
- Unwelcome Visitors to Schools Handbook.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

**All members of the ACT community are expected to:**

- Conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner that recognises and respects the rights of others and is in compliance with the law.
- Comply with this Code of conduct when on Department premises.

**Principals and site managers are expected to:**

- Lead the implementation of the Code of Conduct within their setting.
- Model exemplary conduct by demonstrating the values and principles of the Strategic Plan.
- Communicate high expectations for the way in which staff, students, visitors and community members conduct themselves.
- Provide a safe, secure and supportive learning environment.
- Advise parents, carers and other members of the community of the appropriate Department mechanisms for lodging and dealing with complaints.
- Request any person acting in an offensive or disorderly way to leave the premises, and if necessary, as an authorised person, direct them to do so.
- Call the police if a person fails to follow a direction to leave the premises.

**Teachers and staff are expected to:**

- Work in partnership with parents and carers to enhance the learning outcomes and support the well-being and conduct of their child.
- Communicate high expectations for the learning achievement and conduct of all students.
- Ensure consistency and fairness in interactions with all members of the community.

